

BSRM
www.bsr.com

Earthquakes Don't Kill People. Buildings Do! Build Safe!

BSRM Ultima
Designed for Superior Safety

HIGHEST SELLING 12 CEMENT for more than years

SHAH CEMENT

Clinton on the attack as US race narrows

New poll shows the Democratic candidate winning Florida, a must win state for Trump

AFP, Fort Lauderdale

Hillary Clinton launched a final week election offensive Tuesday to lock down the state of Florida, key to Donald Trump's White House dream, as polls showed their race narrowing.

The Republican had been buoyed earlier in the day by a national poll that showed him sneaking a narrow lead in national voting intentions, sending shivers through US markets.

But when the 69-year-old Democratic candidate took to the stage for a late Fort Lauderdale rally her fierce rhetoric was backed by new survey of early voters that shows her winning Florida.

"Well, I'll tell you what!" she declared, her voice cracking but her tone triumphant. "Donald Trump has proven himself to be temperamentally unfit and unqualified to be president of the United States."

As she spoke, pollster TargetSmart forecast that she could win Florida -- and effectively bar Trump any route to the White House -- by a massive eight point margin, 48 to

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign rally in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, yesterday. Florida is one of the key battleground states her opponent Republican nominee Donald Trump needs to win to become president.

PHOTO: AFP

RANGPUR 'GANG-RAPE' One of five accused arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Two students of a private nurse training institute in Rangpur city were allegedly gang-raped six days ago.

One of the victims filed a rape case with Rangpur Sadar Police Station against five people, including a classmate of theirs, on Tuesday night, five days after the incident.

The accused are Alamgir Kabir, 22, of Nilphamari's Jaldhaka, Shakil Ahmed, 23, Mohammad Polash, 25, Shah Alam, 28, and Mohammad Manik, 28, of Rangpur.

Of them, police arrested Alamgir Kabir, a third-year student of Northern Nursing Institute and a classmate of the victims, soon after the case was lodged.

Police said Alamgir already confessed his involvement in the crime.

Police produced Alamgir before Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court of Shafiqul

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

Violence against women, children shoots up

Data from one stop crisis centres shows rape, other forms of violence increased by 10% in July-September

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and AKRAM HOSEN

The country in the last three months has experienced a wave of sexual abuse, rape and other forms of violence against women and children, which rights activists blame on impunity, perception about women and ubiquity of uncensored web content.

Among four children admitted to the One Stop Crisis Centre (OCC) at Dhaka Medical College Hospital last

week, one is only two and a half years old, said doctors at the centre. She had been molested by a college student who lives in a building across hers. The others were four, seven and thirteen years.

"Had the government ensured punishment of perpetrators through speedy trial in at least the sensational cases, the cases of rape and violence would have been reduced," said Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh

National Women Lawyers' Association that handles many cases related to violence against women.

Referring to the Tonu murder that was followed by an outpouring of anger and countrywide demonstration in March, she said, "Though the reasons for the death could not be known

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Aid workers brace for worst in Mosul

More than a million civilians are in grave danger as Iraqi forces enter the IS-held city

AFP, Gogjali

More than a million civilians in Mosul are in grave danger and aid workers are "bracing for the worst", a relief group said yesterday, after Iraqi forces reached the jihadist-held city.

Just over two weeks into the offensive to retake the last Iraqi city under the control of the Islamic State group, the country's forces have fought their way to the eastern out-

skirts of Mosul.

But there were no signs yet of a major push inside Mosul itself and bad weather appeared to have limited operations, while forces on other fronts were still some distance from the city.

Gunfire echoed across the village of Gogjali on the eastern edge of Mosul yesterday as elite Iraqi forces worked to clear the area.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

2 'abductors' beaten to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

Two alleged kidnappers were beaten to death and four hostages were freed from them by a mob of villagers in Lama upazila of the district.

The incident took place near Hargaja Fakirakhola area under Fashiakhali union around midnight on Tuesday.

The freed hostages, day labourers by profession, were identified as Manur Alam, 55, Kalaputu, 38, Jahir Alam, 40, and Jaber Ahmed, 48 -- all residents of Hargaja area.

The identities of the deceased could not be determined till filing of this report.

According to Iqbal Hossain, officer-in-charge of Lama Police Station, an armed group of criminals swooped in on the day

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



TRADERS CLOSE SHOPS OVER VAT

Shop owners and sales persons sit idle and pass time playing chess, bottom left, at a market in Chawk Bazar intersection in Lalbagh of Old Dhaka. They observed a day-long strike and brought out a procession, bottom right, yesterday demanding their harassment by VAT officials be stopped and "package VAT" system be restored.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS/PALASH KHAN



VAT PROTEST Shop owners in Dhaka, Ctg keep stores shut for a day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A large number of traders downed their shutters in the city yesterday demanding a cut in package VAT which they say is too high.

The protest came as the government doubled the rate of package or fixed VAT for the fiscal year 2016-17.

The rate of package VAT for shops in Dhaka North, South and Chittagong city corporations has been hiked to Tk 28,000 a year for FY 2016-17 from Tk 14,000 in the previous FY.

"It would be very difficult for small shops to pay such a big amount," Abdus Salam, president of Byabosayee Oikya Forum, a platform of small and medium traders, told The Daily Star.

The Forum had called the strike earlier this week. It urged Finance Minister AMA Muhith to address the issue by November 20.

Yesterday, shop operators staged demonstrations in various parts of the city, particularly in Old Dhaka. Wholesales and retailers kept their shops closed since morning.

Besides, most of the outlets at Bangabandhu National Stadium Market, Aziz Cooperative Super Market, in Farmgate, Mohakhali, Fakirapool, Mouchak intersection and Bangla Motor areas, on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Social networking helps live longer

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

People who use Facebook live longer, according to a new study.

Using the site to stay in touch with people appears to suggest that using the site is associated with living longer.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

18th Death Anniversary of Late Waris Ali Chaudhury

"EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE NOT IN FRONT OF OUR EYES ANYMORE, YOUR PICTURE IN OUR HEART WILL REMAIN BEAUTIFULLY PRISTINE FOREVER. WE WILL MISS YOU".

On behalf of Dilu, Dila, Shamim, Deeba, Rafique, Azim, Zeba, Tariq and your precious grand-children & great grand-children.